GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department - Diversion of 2.63 ha. of forest land in Compartment No.313 of Gulamaliabad South RF (0.87 ha), Dhone Range and in Compartment No.334, Rangapuram RF (1.76 ha), Dhone Range, Kurnool division for erection of 220 KV DC line from 400/220 KV SS Jammalamadugu to the proposed 220/132/33 KV SS Bethamacherla in Kurnool District in favour of Executive Engineer, Construction Division, APTRANSCO, Kurnool – Final approval - Accorded.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Section-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 43 **Dated: 18-10-2024**

Read the following:-

1)From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Lr.Ref.No.EFS02-15035/2/2019-FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-1, dated 07.04.2022.
2)State Govt.Letter No.846/Sec.II/2022/1698927, E.F.S. & T. (Sec.II) Dept., dated 02.05.2022.
3)From the GoI, MoEF & CC, Sub-Office of the Regional Office, Chennai, Green House Complex, Vijayawada, Lr.No.4-APB171/222-VIJ/41, dated 03.01.2024.
4)From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Lr.Ref.No.EFS02-15035/2/2019-FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-1, dated 06.09.2024.
5)State Govt.Letter No.846/Sec.II/2022/1698927, E.F.S. & T. (Sec.II) Dept., dated 13.09.2024.
6)From the GoI, MoEF & CC, Sub-Office at Vijayawada of Regional Office, Chennai, Green House Complex, Vijayawada, Lr.No.4-APB171/2022-VIJ/478, dated 01.10.2024.

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ORDER:

In the letter first read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, has submitted a proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for "diversion of 2.63 ha of forest land in Compartment No.313 of Gulamaliabad South RF (0.87 ha), Dhone Range and in Compartment No.334, Rangapuram RF (1.76 ha), Dhone Range, Kurnool division for erection of 220 KV DC line from 400/220 KV SS Jammalamadugu to the proposed 220/132/33 KV SS Bethamacherla in Kurnool District in favour of Executive Engineer, Construction Division, AP TRANSCO, Kurnool" and the same has been sent to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada for in-principle approval under section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in the letter 2nd read above.

2. In the letter 3rd read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Sub-office at Vijayawada of Regional Office, Chennai, after obtaining certain additional information, have accorded in-principle approval under section-2 (1) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for the proposal, subject to fulfilment of conditions stipulated therein.

3. In the letter 4th read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force has furnished "in-principle approval compliance report" within the stipulated time for issue of final approval and the same has been forwarded to GoI, MoEF&CC, Sub-office at Vijayawada of Regional Office, Chennai to accord final approval for the proposal vide in the letter 5th read above.

4. In the letter 6th read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Sub-office at Vijayawada of Regional Office, Chennai, have accorded final approval under section '2(1)' of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for "diversion of 2.63 ha of forest land in Compartment No.313 of Gulamaliabad South RF (0.87 ha), Dhone Range and in Compartment No.334,

Rangapuram RF (1.76 ha), Dhone Range, Kurnool division for erection of 220 KV DC line from 400/220 KV SS Jammalamadugu to the proposed 220/132/33 KV SS Bethamacherla in Kurnool District in favour of Executive Engineer, Construction Division, APTRANSCO, Kurnool", subject to conditions stipulated therein.

5. Government, after careful examination of the proposal, hereby accord permission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, "for diversion of 2.63 ha of forest land in Compartment No.313 of Gulamaliabad South RF (0.87 ha), Dhone Range and in Compartment No.334, Rangapuram RF (1.76 ha), Dhone Range, Kurnool division for erection of 220 KV DC line from 400/220 KV SS Jammalamadugu to the proposed 220/132/33 KV SS Bethamacherla in Kurnool District in favour of Executive Engineer, Construction Division, APTRANSCO, Kurnool, subject to the following conditions:-

i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
ii. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
iii. The State Forest Department shall carry out compensatory afforestation over an extent of i.e. 5.26 ha within 6.28 ha identified in Compartment No.49 & 50 of Gundlakonda at the cont of the User Agency;
iv. The Forest Department shall ensure that the CA scheme as proposed in the diversion proposal shall be implemented in its entirety and the approved compensatory afforestation scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government;
v. As reported, plantation of dwarf medicinal species under the transmission line is not possible as the area is having rocky patch, hence, as proposed additional compensatory afforestation shall be carried out over an extent of 2.63 ha of degraded forest land identified in Compartment No.316, Gulamaliabad South RF, Dhone Range at the cost of the User Agency;
vi. The State Forest Department shall upload the kml file of the 2.63 ha of DFL area identified for additional CA in the PARIVESH Portal in consultation with the NIC, New Delhi;
vii. Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency;
viii. Considering violation of FCA, 1980 action to be taken on User Agency/Forest Department officials are as follows: **a) The State Government shall furnish a detailed report on violation along with details of erring officials for further action under section 3A & 3B of the Adhiniyam; b)The State Government shall take action on Forest Department officials as per provisions made in the comprehensive hand book under section 1.21 (ii) and (d) and complete action taken report shall be submitted to Regional Office;**
ix. Width of RoW shall be maintained as per the standard specification as per the Ministry's guidelines and additional forest area shall not be utilized beyond 2.63 ha;
x. Disturbance shall be kept minimum by creating labour camps outside the forest area and it will be responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
xi. The User Agency at its cost shall provide bird deflectors, which are to be fixed on the upper conductor of the transmission line at the suitable intervals to avoid bird hits;
xii. The User Agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest area issued by Ministry vide letter No.7-25/2012-FC, dated 05/05/2014 & 19/11/2014;
xiii. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for the transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
xiv. Future pollarding / pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local forest officer wherever necessary for the maintenance of the transmission lines;

xv. The User Agency shall provide firewood, preferably alternate fuel to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the adjacent forest areas;

xvi. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;

xvii. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **2.63 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;

xviii. The KML file of the area diverted and Compensatory Afforestation area shall be uploaded in the e-green watch portal with all requisite details and same shall be submitted along with compliance report;

xix. The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;

xx. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the User Agency or the project life, whichever is less;

xxi. The User Agency and the State Forest Department shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;

xxii. Any other conditions that the Central Government may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the user agency;

xxiii. The conditions required to be adhered under the Forests Right Act, 2006 as per the guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be strictly complied with;

xxiv. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed under the Act, Rules and Guidelines relevant.

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, shall take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G. ANANTHA RAMU
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &
Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri, Guntur District.

Copy to:
The Inspector General of Forests,
RO(HQ), MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi – 110 003.

The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central),
GoI, MoEF&CC, Sub-office at Vijayawada of
Regional Office, Chennai, Green House Complex,
Gopal Reddy Road, Vijayawada – 520 010.

The Executive Engineer,
Construction Division,
AP TRANSCO, 132/33,
KV Sub-station Compound,
Near Bellary Chowrastha,
Kurnool -518005.

SF/SC.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER